

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 CIEP-02 OIC-04 IO-14 NEA-11

AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 DRC-01 /194 W

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P R 061247Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2685

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1052

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

SUBJECT: ENERGY: NIGERIAN REACTION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: A. LAGOS 165

B. STATE 4156

C. STATE 4153

1. SUMMARY: FMG HAS SO FAR REACTED IN NONCOMMITTAL FASHION
TO FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE INQUIRY ABOUT FMG VIEWS ON
FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE, MEA SAID ONLY THAT FMG IS
FORMULATING ITS VIEWS. MEA (OLISEMEKA OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT)
DISCOURAGED OUR SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US
TO MEET WITH COMMISSIONER OF MINES AND POWER MUNGONO IN ORDER
TO HEAR AND REPORT HIS REACTIONS, SAYING THAT PERMSEC IYALLA
SATISFIED COMMISSIONER ARIPKO (CURRENTLY IN LATIN AMERICA) WOULD
WISH TO CONTAIN DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT " AT MEA LEVEL "

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AND THAT IF AND WHEN FMG FORMULATED VIEWS MEA WOULD

CONVEY THESE TO US.

3. WESTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEGUES HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO US THAT THEIR EFFORTS AT MEA AND ALSO AT MINES AND POWER TO ELICIT NIGERIAN REACTIONS TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE HAVE MET WITH SIMILARLY NON-COMMITTAL RESPONSES. HOWEVER, IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD WITH MUNGONO, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR FORMED IMPRESSION THAT ALTHOUGH MUNGONO HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, HE WOULD SOMEHOW HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF CONFERENCE INITIATIVE HAD COME FROM OECD AND EEC.

4. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS REPORTED IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PRESS BULLETINS, GENERAL GOWON HAS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RISING COST OF OIL TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES COULD BE LOOKED INTO BY "ALL CONCERNED"; MUNGONO HAS CRITICIZED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD INCREASES IN OIL PRICES AND SUGGESTED THAT CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS SHOULD SIT TOGETHER AND EXAMINE ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY NOT ONLY PRICES OF OIL BUT ALSO THOSE OF OTHER STRATEGIC AND ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES. HOWEVER NEITHER GOWON NOR MUNGONO ALLUDED TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

5. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET FMG'S NONCOMMITTAL REACTIONS TO MEAN THAT IT IS AWAITING OUTCOME FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE ABOUT WHICH MEA ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED AND IS RELYING

ON US ASSURANCE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL FORM BASIS FOR BROADER EXCHANGE BETWEEN CONSUMERS, INCLUDING LDCS', AND PRODUCERS. CROSBY

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